

Danner the Doughboy

By STEVE DONOVAN,
SPECIAL TO THE CLIPPER

The brick reads Carl F. Danner, Captain, Field Signal BN and was a gift to the WWI Memorial Monument Fund from Carl Danner's daughter, Sally Sawyer.

THE MONUMENT BRICKS

Bricks for Memories; each brick suggests a story and helps to provide the funding to rebuild and refurbish a once lost Duxbury monument. The monument lists those from Duxbury who served their nation in World War One. The bricks bear the names and sentiments of others, some once in uniform, some still in uniform, some who served their loved ones in other ways and all of them recognized for and by those they touched.

If you purchased a brick in someone's memory, call and let us tell the story your gift hints at. The bricks series is written by Steve Donovan. He can be reached at 781-837-7782.



Carl Danner served as a First Lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps during World War I.

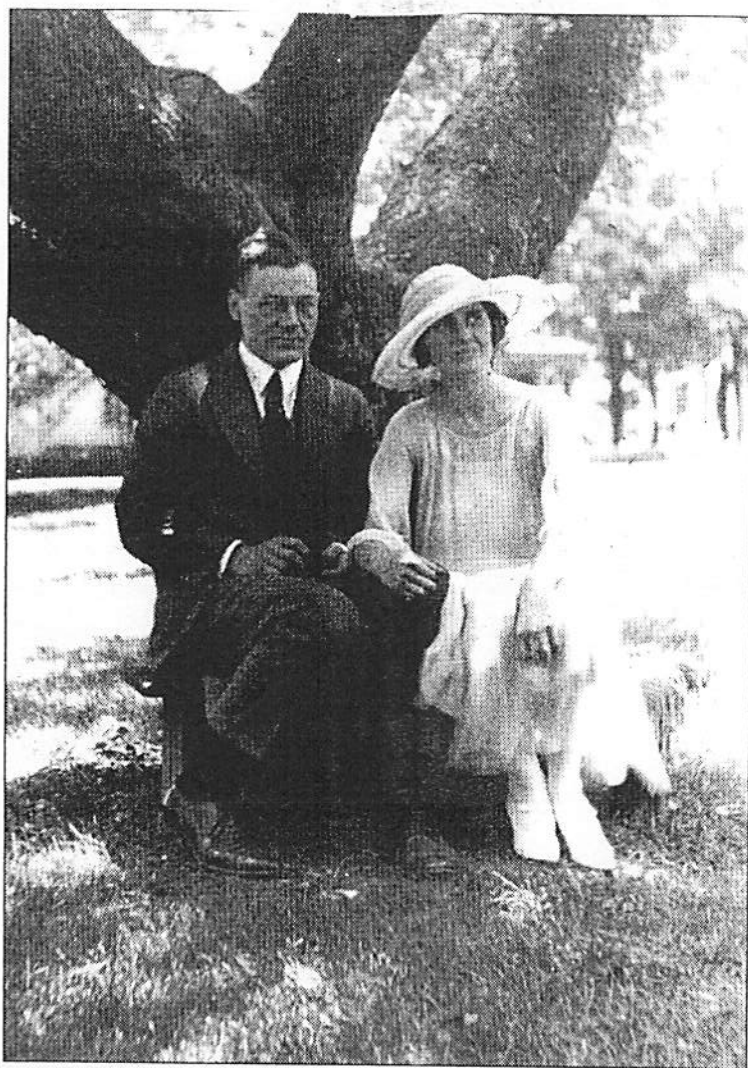
Sally's "Pop" was born in East Aurora, N.Y. on June 23, 1893. He attended Union College while also working for the New York Telephone Company, graduated in 1916 and was subsequently hired as the phone company's Buffalo area district engineer. One of his responsibilities was replacing broken wires during frigid winter storms. His reputation as a dependable man who could keep the phone service operating, even if it meant fording frozen rivers to string new wire, was one reason he was tapped for an early commission as First Lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps. He volunteered for service a week

before the U.S. declared war on Germany and immediately left to train the new company awaiting him at Camp Jackson, S.C.

The young Doughboys he volunteered to command and train would soon be in Europe stringing communications wire from division headquarter sites to front line trenches. This was usually accomplished while under heavy enemy fire and the threat of dreaded mustard gas attacks.

After the war was won he remained in the service in Europe. He was attached to the Inter Allied Armistice Commission. On one trip to Poland, as he passed through Germany, Captain Danner was captured and then locked in the room of a farmhouse. He soon uncovered telephone wires in the wall and was able to surreptitiously rig a way to send a message via the old wires back to his unit. The Americans then made it known they were prepared to bomb a nearby city if he was not immediately set free and very soon he was released unharmed.

1921 found Carl a civilian again working in New York



Danner and his wife, Cornelia, on their wedding day.

City as a structural production engineer. There he met and dated his future wife, Cornelia Joy Hatmaker. The couple wed in 1922 in East Aurora, NY and over the next seven years had four children, Bob, Doad, Sally and Joan.

Around the time of his marriage, Carl met Perry Wurst, a Buffalo banker, on a train ride. This lifelong friend became his mentor and introduced him to opportunities in the leather business which led to a career that would dominate the rest of his life and eventually take him to Pennsylvania, Boston, Waban and finally to Duxbury.

The couple's first Duxbury home was on Water Street and it burned to the ground in 1936. They used this unfortunate opportunity to purchase a new property just yards from Duxbury Bay on Linden Lane where they built the fine family home that Sally Sawyer still lives in. That house witnessed many games of charades and wonderful evenings of songs and parties as well as

lawn luncheons for young servicemen during World War II. Sally remembers dances held every Saturday night from July through Labor Day at the Yacht Club where her mother once served as chair of the entertainment committee and her father as Commodore. During his tenure as Commodore he arranged for a group (Harrison Street Trust) to purchase and hold the land for seven holes of the future golf course north of Harrison Street until the Yacht Club was ready to expand and utilize the acreage.

Carl Danner the professional was always a busy man. In addition to a 26-year career as President of American Hide and Leather Company, he was Chair of the Tanner's Council and a board member of both the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers. He served on the Massachusetts Port Authority Board, The Boston Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the Duxbury Planning Board and in 1943 was part of the Harriman Mission to London during the Blitz.

In 1966 Captain Danner's life ended at age 72 surrounded by his family.